

Eurojust's support to national authorities throughout the investigation

In the first stages of the investigation



Identifying victims and coordinating communication to families

At an early stage of investigations, and notably in the aftermath of a crisis, Eurojust facilitates the identification and registration of victims. Examples include:

- **The Germanwings plane crash in 2015:** Eurojust helped families and relatives across Europe identify the victims, receive welfare support and exercise their rights in other foreign jurisdictions by appointing Contact Points in all Member States involved.
- **Trafficking of Human Beings cases:** Coordination meetings give Eurojust the opportunity to support Member States' efforts to locate, identify, rescue and help victims to report trafficking, irrespective of where the recruitment, transit and exploitation took place in the EU.

During the course of the investigation



Information exchange and joint action

Eurojust regularly supports joint investigation teams (JITs) to facilitate information exchange, and sets up coordination centres to execute joint actions across countries. Examples include:

- **Support to Swedish and French JIT targeting crimes against Yazidi victims in Syria and Iraq:** The JIT focused on identifying victims of core international crimes committed in Syria and Iraq, and ensured victims were not interviewed multiple times.
- **Setting up coordination centres:** Coordination centres, notably in trafficking of human beings cases, allow Eurojust to immediately provide help and ensure that joint actions are taken to benefit the judiciary and the police in all participating countries, enabling them to rescue and protect victims in due time.



Solving conflicts of jurisdiction

Eurojust plays a critical role in solving conflicts of jurisdiction based on the interest of victims. An example:

- **The sinking of the Prestige oil tanker in 2002:** Based on Eurojust advice, judicial practitioners agreed to use the interest of victims as the determining factor to identify who was best placed to prosecute this environmental disaster.



Minimizing the risk of secondary victimization

Eurojust advises on the use of video conferencing at trial to avoid victims being confronted with their exploiters. Examples include:

- **Trafficking of Human Beings cases**
- **Core international crime cases**

Before the investigation is concluded



Enabling coordination on compensation rights

Eurojust assists in remedial actions to ensure victim compensation. Examples include:

- **Terrorist attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils in 2017:** In the aftermaths of the terrorist attacks affecting victims of 34 nationalities, Eurojust assisted the Spanish authorities to prepare and transmit a specially designed template informing victims of their rights.
- **Cyber-enabled crime such as investment fraud:** Such crimes typically include large number of victims located in different countries which makes it indispensable to identify all the victims and coordinate compensation among different national jurisdictions to avoid a "first come first served" effect.